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assassination

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.; from medieval Latin assassinat-'killed,' from the verb assassinare, from assassinus (see Assassin).
- as-sas-si-na-tion /a,sasa-nasHan/ > n. the action of assassinating someone: the assassination of President Kennedy | [as modiler] a failed assassination attempt.
- as-sas-sin bug r n. a long-legged predatory or bloodsucking bug that occurs chiefly in the tropics and feeds mainly on other arthropods. Some of those that bite humans can transmit microorganisms such as the one causing Chagas' disease. • Family Reduviidae, suborder Heteroptera: numerous species.
- As-sa-teague Is-land /asa-tég/ a barrier Island in southeastern Maryland and northeastern Virginia, on the Atlantic Ocean, noted for its wild ponies.
- as-sault /o'sôlt/ > v. |with obj.| make a physical attack on: he pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer | she was sexually assaulted as a child.

 attack or bombard (someone or the senses) with something undesirable or unpleasant: her right car was usuestratie of unpleasant: ner right cal was
 assaulted with a tide of music. * carry out a military
 attack or raid on (an enemy position): they left their
 strong position to assault the hill. * rape.

 * n. 1 a physical attack: his imprisonment for an
- n. 1 a physical attack: his imprisonment for an assault on the film director jesural assaults, a law an act, criminal or tortious, that threatens physical harm to a person, whether or not actual harm is done: he appeared in court charged with assault, a a military attack or raid on an enemy position; troops began an assault on the city [] as modified in assault boot. It as a company exchal attack: the assault on the party's tax policies.

 2 a concerted attempt to do something demanding:

- a winter assault on Mt. Everest.

 DERIVATIVES as-soulter 6.

 ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French assaut (noun), assauter (verb), based on Latin ad-'to'+ saltare, frequentative of salire 'to leap.' Compare with ASSAIL
- as sault and bat ter y > n. law the crime of threatening a person together with the act of making physical contact with them.
- as-saul-tive /o'sôltiv/ > adj. tending or likely to commit an assault: they found that assaultive men had abusive parents.

 extremely aggressive or forcefully assertive: his loud, assaultive playing style can leave you cowering.
- as-sault ri-fle > n. a rapid-fire, magazine-fed automatic rifle designed for infantry use.
- as-say /'a,så, a'så/ > n. the testing of a metal or ore 15-34) / a,3, a 34 / h. the testing of a minute of the to determine its ingredients and quality: submission of plate for assay. • a procedure for measuring the biochemical or immunological activity of a sample: each assay was performed in duplicate | the results of sequential assays of serum were analyzed | immunofluorescence assay.
- v. [with obj.] 1 determine the content or quality of (a metal or ore). determine the biochemical or immunological activity of (a sample): cell contents were assayed for enzyme activity.

 examine
 (something) in order to assess its nature: stepping
 inside, I quickly assayed the clientele.
- 2 archaic attempt; I assayed a little joke of mine on him.
- DERIVATIVES as-say-er a.
 ORIGIN Middle English (in the general sense 'testing, or a test of, the merit of someone or something'): from Old French assai (noun), assaier (verb), variant of essai 'trial,' essayer 'to try' (see essay)
- ass-back-wards > adv. & adj. informal, derogatory backwards or in a contrary way.
- ass ban-dit > n, wigar slang (also ass burglar) 1 a male homosexual sodomite or pederast. 2 an eager seducer of young women.
- as-se-gai /'ase.gi/ (also assagai) + n. (pl. assegais) 1 a slender, iron-tipped, hardwood spear used chiefly by southern African peoples.
 2 (also assegal wood) a South African tree of the dogwood family that yields hard timber. • Curtisia dentata, family Cornaceae.
- v. (assegais, assegaing, assegaied) [with ob.] wound or kill with an assegai.
- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from obsolete French azagaie or Portuguese azagaia, from Arabic az-zagāyah, from az, al 'the' + Berber zagāyah 'spear.'
- as-sem-blage /a'semblij/ > n. a collection is-semblage a sembly Pen a to lection or gathering of things or pen a to lection assemblage of noble knights, cruel temptresses, and impossible loves. # a machine or object made opieces fitted together: some vast assemblage of gars and cogs. # a work of art made by grouping found or unrelated objects. • the action of gathering or fitting things together.
- as-sem-ble (a'sembol) > v. 1 |no obj.] (of people)
 gather together in one place for a common purpose:
 a crowd had assembled outside the gates. = |with obj.]
 bring (people or things) together for a common

purpose: he assembled the surviving members of purpose: he assembled the surviving memory of the group for a tour. m (usu, as nown assembling) Entomology (of male moths) gather for mating in response to a pheromone released by a female. 2 | with obi. | fit together the separate component parts of (a machine or other object): a factory that assembled parts for trucks. • Computing translate (a program) from assembly language into machine code. ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French asembler. based on Latin ad-'to' + simul 'together.'

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- as-sem-bler /a'semblar/ ► n. 1 a person who assembles a machine or its parts.
- 2 Computing a program for converting instructions written in low-level symbolic code into machine code. another term for ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE.
- as-sem-bly (a'semble) n. (pl. assembles) 1 a group of people gathered together in one place for a common purpose: an assembly of scholars and poets. a group of people elected to make laws or decisions for a particular country or region, esp. the lower legislative house in some US states: the Connecticut General Assembly.

 2 the action of gathering together as a group for
- a common purpose: a decree guaranteeing freedom of assembly. a regular gathering of the teachers and students of a school: catcalling occurred during the assembly. a (usu. the assembly) thely historical a signal for troops to assemble, given by drum or
- bugle.

 3 [often as modifier] the action of fitting togeth 3 joine as monney the action of ritting together in-component parts of a machine or other object: a car assembly plant. = a unit consisting of components that have been fitted together: the tail assembly of the aircraft. = [usu. as modifier] Computing the conversion of instructions in low-level code to machine code by an assembler.
- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French asemblé, feminine past participle of asembler (see ASSEMBLE) as-sem-bly lan-guage ➤ n. Computing a low-level symbolic code converted by an assembler.
- as-sem-bly line > n. a series of workers and is-sem-oly line P. a series of workers and machines in a factory by which a succession of identical items is progressively assembled: their latest economy car rolled off the assembly line last August [lapathe new tearings idols were pouring off the assembly line. Compare with PRODUCTION LINE.
- as-sem-bly-man /a'sembleman/ ➤ n. (pl. assemblymen) a person who is a member of a legislative assembly.
- as-sem-bly-wo-man /a'semble,wooman/ ➤ n. (pl. assemblywomen) a woman who is a member of a legislative assembly
- assement's absention;

 ass-sent (s)-sent () = n, the expression of approval or agreement: a loud murmur of assent 1 he nodded assent. official agreement or sanction: the governor has power to withhold his assent from a bill.

 by \(\text{In obj}\) (2-years approval or agreement, typically officially. Roosevelt assented to the agreement | with diets peech "Guest house, them," Frank assented \(\text{with dieta}\) (with dieta) expect. cheerfully
- CHECTION:

 DERIVATIVES as sent or a.

 ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French as(s)enter
 (verb), as(s)ente (noun), based on Latin assentiri, from ad-'toward' + sentire 'feel, think.'
- as-sert /a/sart/ » v. |eporting verb| state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully: |with daue| the company asserts that the cuts will not affect development | |with obj| | he asserted his innocence | |with diest speech| "I don't know why she came," he asserted. » |with obj| cause others to recognize (one's authority or a right) by confident and forceful behavior: the good librarian is able to assert authority when required.

 (assert oneself) behave or speak in a confident and forceful manner: it was time to assert himself.
- DERIVATIVES as sert-er n.

 ORIGIN early 17th cent.; from Latin asserere 'claim, affirm,' from ad-'to' + serere 'to join.'
- as-ser-tion /o'sorsHon/ ► n. a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief: |with dause| his assertion that his father had deserted the family. the action of stating something or exercising authority confidently and forcefully: the assertion of his legal
- as-ser-tive /ə'sərtiv/ > adj. having or showing a confident and forceful personality: patients should be more assertive with their doctors.
- DERIVATIVES as-ser-tive-ly adv., as-ser-tive-ness n. as-ses /'asiz/ plural form of As', Ass', Ass',
- as-sess /o'ses/ > v. (with obj.) evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of: the committee must assess the relative importance of the issues | with dause | it is difficult to assess whether this is a new trend. (usu. be assessed) calculate or estimate the price or value of: the damage was assessed at \$5 billion.
- set the value of a tax, fine, etc., for (a person or property) at a specified level; all empty properties will be assessed at 50 percent.
- DERIVATIVES as-sess-a-ble adj.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French assesser, based on Latin assidere 'sit by' (in medies Latin 'levy tax'), from ad-'to, at' + sedere 'sit.' Compare with Assize.

assig

- as sess-ment /o'sesmont/ > n. the evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something: the assessment of educational needs | he made a rapid assessment of t situation | assessments of market value.
- as-ses-sor /a-sesar/ > n. a person who assesses someone or something, in particular: m a person who calculates or estimates the value of something the source of something for tax or something for something for tax or something for something for tax or something for something for tax or something for ta or an amount to be paid, chiefly for tax or insuran purposes. • a person who is knowledgeable in purposes, a person win scheming and in a particular field and is called upon for advice, typically by a judge or committee of inquiry. ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, assessour, from Latin assessor assistant judge.
 - (in medieval Latin 'assessor of taxes'), from Latin assidere (see Assess).
- as-set /aset/ > n. a useful or valuable thing, person or quality: quick reflexes were his chief asset | the school is an asset to the community. . (usu. assets school is an asset to the community. ■ (us. assets) property owned by a person or company, regarded as having value and available to meet debts, commitments, or legacies: growth in net assets [os modified debitting the asset account. ■ (assets) military equipment, such as planes, ships, communications and radar installations, employe or targeted in military operations, ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the plural in the sense
- 'sufficient estate to allow discharge of a will'); fro an Anglo-Norman French legal term, from Old French asez 'enough,' based on Latin ad 'to' + satis
- as-set-backed > adj. [attrib.] denoting securities having as collateral the return on a series of mortgages, credit agreements, or other forms of lending.
- as-set-strip-ping > n. the practice of taking over company in financial difficulties and selling each its assets separately at a profit without regard for the company's future.
- DERIVATIVES as set-strip-per n.
- as-sev-er-a-tion /a,seva'rasHan/ > n. the solemn or emphatic declaration or statement of something. I fear that you offer only unsupported asseveration | the dogmatic outlook marks many of his asseverations.
- DERIVATIVES as-sev-er-ate /ə'sevo,rāt/ v.
 ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin asseveratio(n-from the verb asseverare, from ad-'to' + severus secious.
- ass-hat /'ashat/ > n. vulgar slang a stupid person. ass-hole /'as,hôl/ ▶ n. vulgar slang the anus. ■ an irritating or contemptible person.
- as-sib-i-late /a'siba,lat/ > v. [with obj.] Phonetics pronounce (a sound) as a sibilant or affricate end
- in a sibilant (e.g., sound f as ts).

 DERIVATIVES as-sib-ila-tion /a, sibo'läsHan/n.

 ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Latin assibilat-'hiss
 at,' from the verb assibilare, from ad-'to'+ sibilar
- as-si-du-l-ty /,asi'd(y)@oitê/ ► n. (pl. assiduities) constant or close attention to what one is doing the assiduity with which he could wear down his opponents. a (assiduities) archaic or literary constant attentions to someone,
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin ossiduite from assiduus 'occupied with' (see Assiduous).
- as-sid-u-ous /ə'sijəwəs/ > adj. showing great care and perseverance: she was assiduous in pointing to every feature.
- DERIVATIVES as-sid-u-ous-ly adv., as-sid-u-ous-ness n.
- ORIGIN mid 16th cent.; from Latin assiduus, from assidere 'be engaged in doing' (see ASSESS), +-ous
- as-sign /o'sin/ > v. (with ob) | 1 allocate (a job or du Congress assigned the task to the agency | (with two ob)s, his leader assigned him this mission.

 appoir (someone) to a particular job, task, or organization she has been assigned to a new job | [with ob] and infinitive he was assigned to prosecute the case.

 2 designate or set (something) aside for a specific outsignate or set (something) asine for a specim-purpose: managers happily assign large sums of money to travel budgets. • (assign something to attribute something as belonging to: it is difficult decide whether to assign the victory to Goodwin. 3 transfer (legal rights or liabilities); they will as you to action ware rights, against the airline.
- you to assign your rights against the airline.

 n. Law another term for assigns (sense 1).

 DERIVATIVES assign-a-ble ad). (sense 3 of the verb), as-sign-er n., as-sign-or /o'sinor/ n. (sense
- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French asignet assiner, from Latin assignare, from ad-'to' + sign to sign.